

# Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area



Interagency Trail Planning & Management  
Park Partners Working Toward a Common Vision

**Presented to the Santa Barbara Front Country Trails Task Force  
November 17, 2007**

by

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## Presentation Outline

About Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area

NPS Partnership Enabling Documents

The SMMNRA Interagency Trail Management Plan

Trail Management

- Maintenance
- Visitor Protection

Interagency Trail Management Challenges

The End: Qs & As

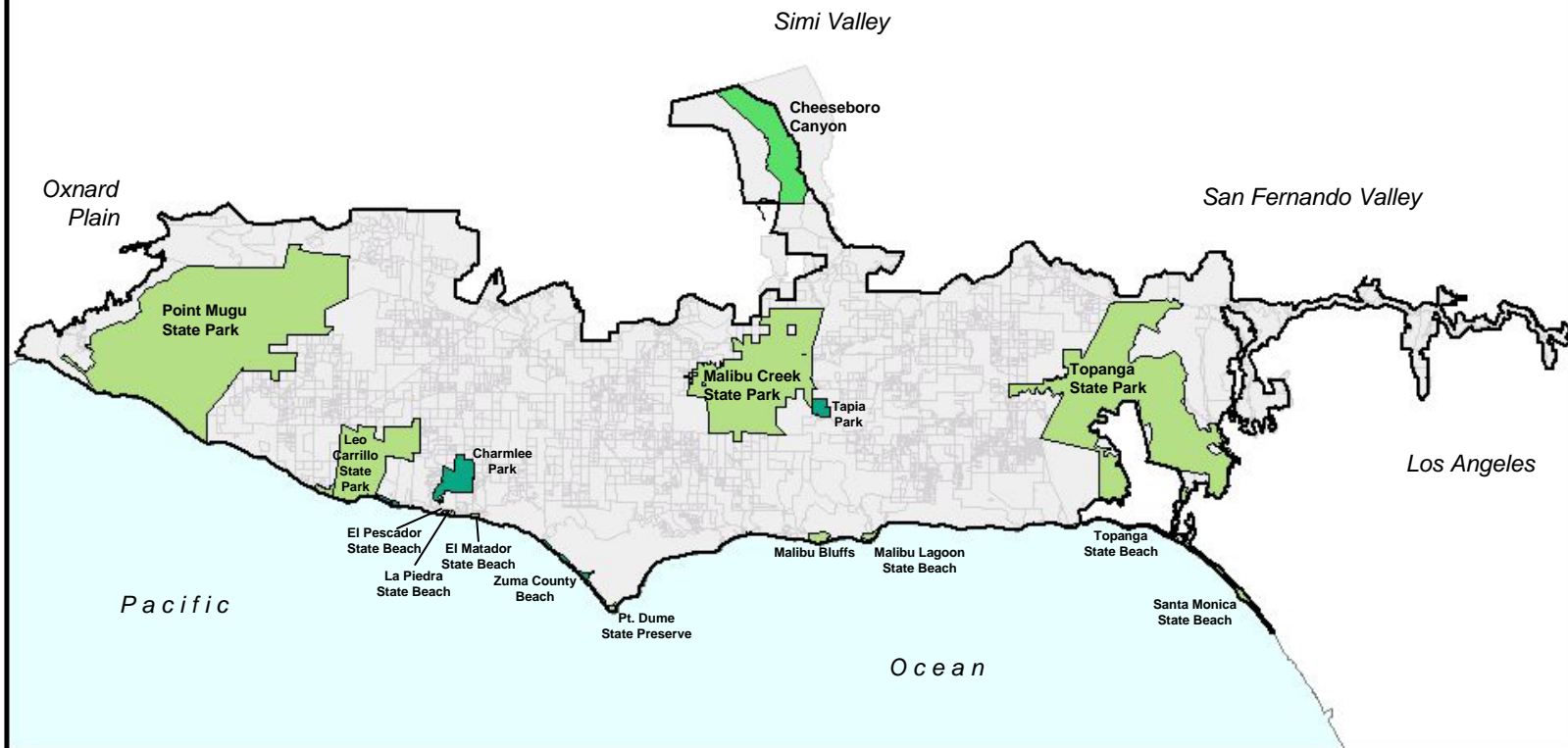
# Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area

- A unit of the National Park System; established in 1978
- Covers approximately 153,250 acres from Griffith Park to the Oxnard Plain
- Land ownership mixture of protected parkland/private lands



## One Boundary - Private/Public Lands - In the Beginning...

**Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area – 150,050 Acres – 33,064 Parkland**  
**1978 – 22% Parkland**

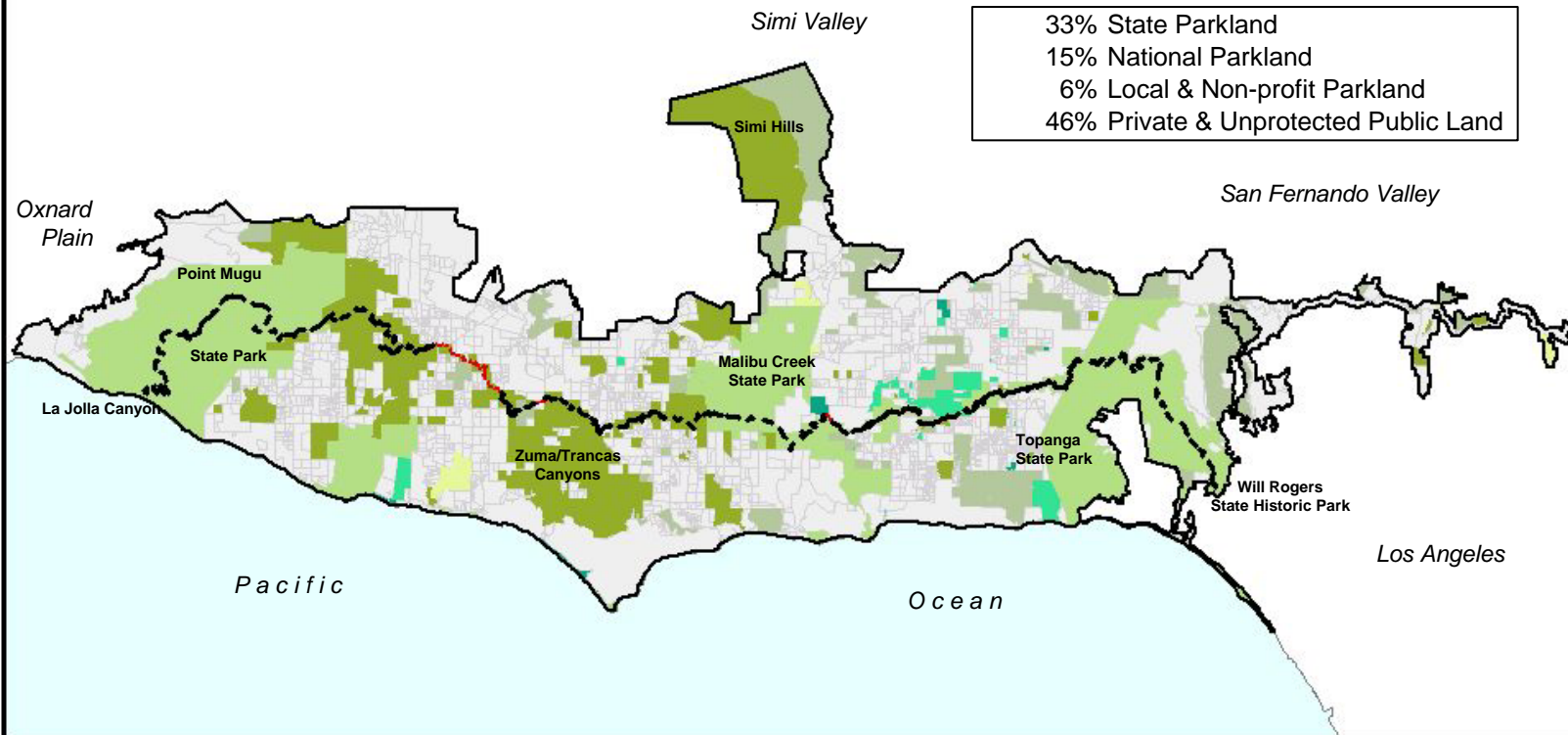




## One Boundary - Private/Public Lands - Ongoing Acquisition

**Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area – 153,250 Acres – 76,576 Parkland**

**2007 – 54% Parkland**



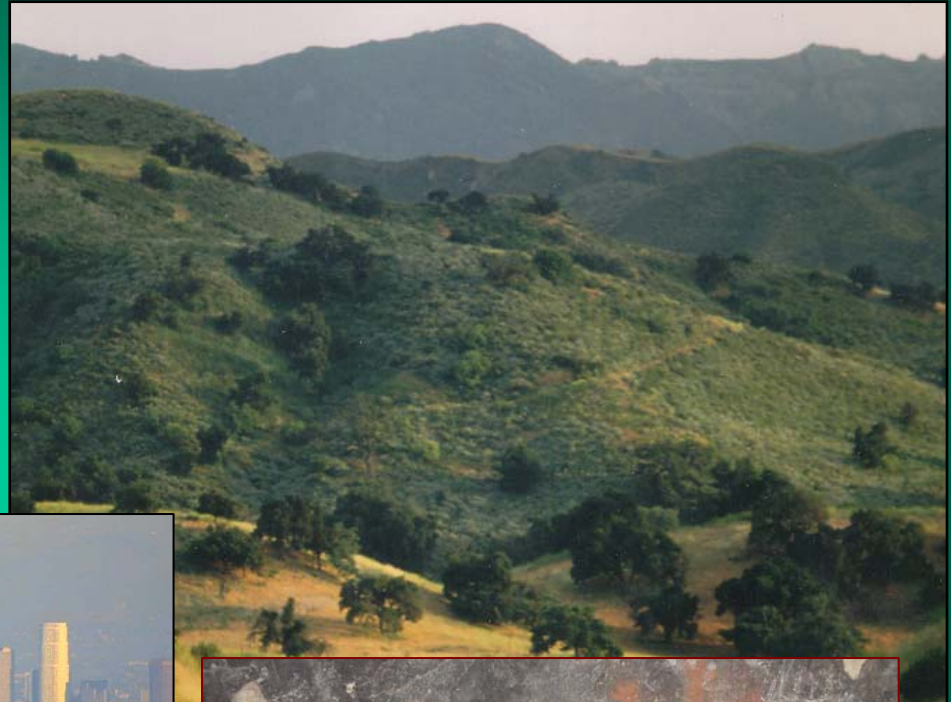
**Full Length: 65 miles**

**Completed Trail, Open to the Public: 63 miles**

**Remaining Trail Gaps (Secure Public Right-of-Way): 2 miles**

## Tremendous Natural & Cultural Resources, Threatened

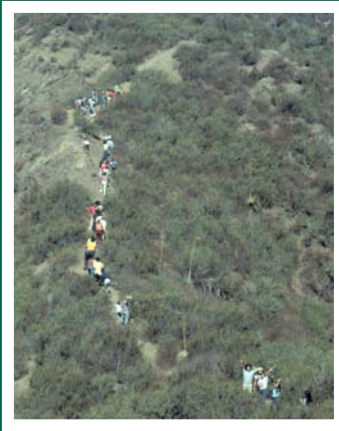
- An area of global biodiversity concern: 25 T&E species and 50 candidate species
- Over 1,000 documented archaeological sites



The Encroaching  
Los Angeles Metropolis



## Numerous Recreational Opportunities: The SMMNRA Trail Network



Nearly 500 miles in public network.

Trails 286 mi.

Roads (Unpaved/Paved) 198 mi.



Most common uses: hiking, horseback riding, and mountain biking.

Trail Use Designation		Visitor Survey User Activities (July, 2002, Western Area)	
Multiple Use	60%	35%	Mountain Biking
Hiker/Equestrian	20%	5%	Horseback Riding
Hiker-Only	20%	60%	On-Foot: Hiking, Jogging, Dog-walking, etc.

Heavy use: Trail network is within an hour's drive of 1 in every 17 Americans.



# NPS Partnerships - Enabling Documents

## 1. The Cooperative Management Agreement

Legislative Authority: 16 USC 1a-2(l)

- In general: Where a unit of the National Park System is located adjacent to or near a State or local park area, and cooperative management between the National Park Service and a State or local government agency of a portion of either park will allow for more effective and efficient management of the parks, the Secretary may enter into an agreement with a State or local government agency to provide for the cooperative management of the Federal and State or local park areas. The Secretary may not transfer administration responsibilities for any unit of the National Park System under this paragraph.
- Provision of goods and services: Under a cooperative management agreement, the Secretary may acquire from and provide to a State or local government agency goods and services to be used by the Secretary and the State or local governmental agency in the cooperative management of land.



# SMMNRA Cooperative Management Agreement



NPS



CDPR



SMMC  
MRCA

Establishes Terms for Cooperative Management Among Federal and State Park Agencies Responsible for Parkland Management within SMMNRA

Outcome of California Committee on Operational Efficiencies

Committee Initiated by NPS Pacific West Region Director and California State Parks Director

Adopted October, 2001

Five-Year Life

Four Partner Agencies

First Amendment for Parklink Shuttle, Three-Year Extension

Second Amendment Underway for Joint Management of King Gillette Ranch, Indefinite Extension

Agreement No. G8540020001

COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT  
among the  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
and  
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
and  
SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY  
and  
MOUNTAINS RECREATION AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY  
for  
THE COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT OF  
THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

THIS COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT is made and entered into this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2001, by and between the STATE OF CALIFORNIA, acting through the California Department of Parks and Recreation ("CDPR"), the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy ("SMMC"), the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority ("MRCA"), and the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, acting through the National Park Service ("NPS").

**ARTICLE I - BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES**

The California Coordinating Committee on Operational Efficiencies ("Committee"), in a 1993 report representing the combined recommendations of the CDPR and the NPS, concluded that the Malibu Coast Parks located within the congressionally authorized boundary of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area ("Cooperative Zone") should be managed by the CDPR and the NPS in a cooperative manner under a Cooperative Management Agreement.

That Committee further concluded the CDPR and the NPS should seek participation from the SMMC in the cooperative management of the Cooperative Zone.

The Committee also concluded such cooperation would allow the identification, development and implementation of operational efficiencies resulting in enhanced protection of park resources and improved service to the public.

The SMMC has entered into a reciprocal management agreement with the MRCA, a joint powers agency of the SMMC and the Conejo and Rancho Simi Recreation and Park Districts, for the operation of parkland owned or administered by the SMMC.

The CDPR, the NPS, the SMMC and the MRCA similarly conclude that the commitment of their respective resources within the Cooperative Zone can enhance the common

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Agreement No. G8540020001

**ARTICLE XI - AUTHORIZED SIGNATURES**

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have signed their names and executed this Cooperative Management Agreement.

[Signature] Date 10/4/01  
Superintendent  
Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area  
National Park Service

[Signature] Date 10-10-01  
Superintendent  
Angeles District  
California Department of Parks and Recreation

[Signature] Date 10-17-01  
Executive Director  
Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy  
State of California

[Signature] Date 10-17-01  
Executive Officer  
Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority  
State of California

[Signature] Date 10-1-01  
Regional Director  
Pacific West Region  
National Park Service

[Signature] Date 11-7-01  
Director  
California Department of Parks and Recreation

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# SMMNRA Cooperative Management Agreement Facilitates:

## Joint Management Projects

- General Management Plan
- Land Protection Plan
- Trail Management Plan

Agreement No G8540020001

protection of all park resources, as well as the appropriate enjoyment and appreciation of the same by the public.

The CDPR, the NPS, the SMMC and the MRCA would benefit by greater efficiency and cost savings derived from cooperative operating procedures and practices, as well as standardized signs and rules, and thereby promote less confusion and improved cooperation among park users.

The CDPR, the NPS, the SMMC and the MRCA believe that whenever possible, further efficiency, greater consistency and more effectiveness can be derived from planning throughout the Cooperative Zone that is cooperatively produced, reviewed and approved.

The CDPR, the NPS, the SMMC and the MRCA desire to enter into an agreement to provide for cooperative management of all CDPR, NPS, SMMC, and MRCA lands within the Cooperative Zone in order to obtain such benefits.

### ARTICLE II - AUTHORITY

Pursuant to Section 5080.30 of the Public Resources Code of the State of California, CDPR may enter into agreements with agencies of the United States for the care, maintenance, administration and control of lands under the jurisdiction of the CDPR by any party of the agreement for the purposes of the State Park System.

Pursuant to 16 U.S.C. § 1a-2(f), the NPS is authorized to cooperate with State and local park agencies for the more effective and efficient management of adjacent park areas, so long as the administrative responsibilities for any unit of the National Park System are not transferred.

Pursuant to 16 U.S.C. § 1a-6, the NPS is authorized to render emergency rescue, fire fighting, and cooperative assistance to nearby law enforcement and fire prevention agencies and for related purposes outside of the NPS.

### ARTICLE III - STATEMENT OF WORK

#### A. All parties shall:

Commit the respective resources, staff, equipment and facilities assigned to the Cooperative Zone to the common protection of all resources contained within the Cooperative Zone, as well as for the appropriate enjoyment and appreciation of the same by the public, without regard to governmental ownership.

2. Designate a staff liaison for purposes of discussing and resolving coordination matters. Agency heads will resolve substantive issues, including issues not resolved at the liaison level. Liaisons will meet on a quarterly basis to discuss and resolve coordination matters.

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Agreement No G8540020001

3. Seek to attain cooperative operating procedures and practices that result in efficiencies and cost savings. Revenues shall be maintained in each agency's operation and it is the parties' intent that savings accruing therefrom shall be utilized for the enhanced protection of Cooperative Zone resources and service to Cooperative Zone visitors by each agency at their discretion.

4. Develop and employ, to the extent practicable, operating procedures and standards to ensure joint accomplishments of Cooperative Zone activities, which may include but not be limited to: visitor protection and public safety, fire management, administration, public information, interpretation and publications, resource management, maintenance, design and construction, planning, signing, and the development of policies.

5. Work cooperatively to prepare an annual work plan that identifies common projects resulting in interagency cost efficiencies.

6. Produce, review and approve Cooperative Zone plans by cooperative means; to the extent practicable. Existing plans will serve as current direction, pending their revision or replacement. The agencies shall cooperatively review non-Cooperative Zone plans that affect Cooperative Zone interests. NPS, CDPR, SMMC and MRCA shall work toward the completion of a new General Management Plan that will provide a common management framework for the Cooperative Zone. NPS, CDPR, SMMC and MRCA shall work cooperatively to implement the Land Protection Plan for the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. NPS, CDPR, SMMC, and MRCA shall work toward the development of a Trail Management Plan to provide uniform standards and guidelines for managing trails in the Cooperative Zone.

7. Exchange operational responsibilities for parklands within the Cooperative Zone when the parties of ownership and responsibility agree such exchange will result in more cost-effective management and/or enhanced public services. Said exchanges shall be stipulated in modifications to this Agreement.

#### B. The NPS shall:

##### 1. With respect to FRANKLIN CANYON:

- a) Assign day-to-day operation of NPS property (except housing unit 116 and the maintenance building) in Upper Franklin Canyon and Franklin Canyon Ranch to the MRCA.
- b) Provide for joint use of the Franklin Canyon maintenance building;
- c) Accomplish all planning and historic clearances required based on written proposal from the MRCA for modifications to historic and contemporary facilities; and

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Agreement No G8540020001

- d) Facilitate the future revision of the Franklin Canyon Development Concept Plan.

##### 2. With respect to LIBERTY CANYON:

- a) Conduct ranger patrols for law enforcement of applicable laws;
- b) Issue all special use permits and filming permits subject to a cost recovery schedule approved by the MRCA;
- c) Construct and maintain park-related improvements with prior written approval by MRCA; and
- d) Maintain the access road and accomplishment of required weed abatement.

##### C. The MRCA shall:

##### 1. With respect to FRANKLIN CANYON:

- a) Conduct ranger patrol for law enforcement of applicable laws;
- b) Issue all special use permits and filming permits subject to a cost recovery schedule approved by the NPS;
- c) Use the Doheny Ranch House pursuant to written permission by NPS;
- d) Provide janitorial, trash removal and grounds maintenance based on a written site maintenance plan approved by NPS;
- e) Maintain the trail network (no new trails or substantial modification of existing trails will be done without prior written approval by NPS);
- f) Construct and maintain park-related improvements with prior written approval by NPS;
- g) Erect or post and maintain signs that reflect the joint management of the Franklin Canyon Area; and
- h) Cooperate on the future revision of the Development Concept Plan for Franklin Canyon.

##### 2. With respect to LIBERTY CANYON:

- a) Accomplish all planning and historic clearances required based on written proposal from the NPS for modifications to historic and contemporary facilities; and

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## Sharing of Resources

- Staff
- Equipment
- Facilities

## NPS Partnerships - Enabling Documents, continued

### 2. The Cooperative Agreement

Legislative Authority: 16 USC 1g

Cooperative agreements: The National Park Service may in fiscal year 1997 and thereafter enter into cooperative agreements that involve the transfer of National Park Service appropriated funds to State, local and tribal governments, other public entities, educational institutions, and private nonprofit organizations for the public purpose of carrying out National Park Service programs pursuant to section 6305 of title 31 to carry out public purposes of National Park Service programs.

#### Selection of SMMNRA Cooperative Agreement Partners

- Mountains Restoration Trust (Non-Profit Organization, Land Protection & Restoration)
- Los Angeles Conservation Corps (Non-Profit Organization, Youth Labor Projects)
- Cal State, Los Angeles (University, Under the Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit Network)
- Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains (Local Government)

## NPS Partnerships - Enabling Documents, continued

### 3. The Task Agreement

#### The Funding Document for the Cooperative Management Agreement and Cooperative Agreements

- Defines Specific Projects
- Provides Details of Project: Timeline, Funding Account, Project Contacts, Deliverables

#### ARTICLE VI – EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS

From SMMNRA Cooperative  
Management Agreement

Nothing in this Cooperative Management Agreement shall be construed as obligating NPS, CDPR, SMMC and MRCA to expend any funds in excess of appropriations authorized by law. The commitment of funds in furtherance of this Cooperative Management Agreement shall be authorized by individual Task Agreements. When the work to be accomplished and the work program are mutually agreed upon by all parties, an appropriate Task Agreement shall be consummated obligating funds where necessary. Whenever a transfer of funds is specified, the relevant implementing Task Agreement shall include a description of the project, the authority for the expenditure/transfer, the specific funding source and amount(s) and names, addresses and telephone numbers for contact re: billing questions. Overhead rates will be waived, but direct expenses will be reimbursed by the NPS, CDPR, SMMC and MRCA.



# NPS Partnerships - Enabling Documents, continued

## 4. Voluntary Services Agreement

- Used for individual and sponsored group voluntary services
- Provides insurance coverage for Workers Compensation, tort claims

Form No. 10-65  
Rev. (9/99)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
VOLUNTEERS-IN-PARKS PROGRAM

Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area  
AREA

**Agreement for Individual Voluntary Services**  
(Act of July 29, 1970 Public Law 91-357)

NAME - Last, first, middle initial (please print) \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS (Street, city, state, zip code) \_\_\_\_\_

Brief description of work to be performed, including minimum time commitment required. (Attach complete job description to this form)

I understand that I will not receive any compensation for the above work and that volunteers are NOT considered to be Federal employees for any purpose other than tort claims and injury compensation, and I understand that volunteer service is not creditable for leave accrual or any other employee benefits. I also understand that either the National Park Service or I may cancel this agreement at any time by notifying the other party.

I do hereby volunteer my services as described above, to assist the National Park Service in its authorized work.

Signature of Volunteer \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

The National Park Service agrees, while this arrangement is in effect, to provide such materials, equipment and facilities that are available and needed to perform the work described above, and to consider you as a Federal employee only for the purpose of tort claims and compensation for work related injuries.

Signature of Park VIP Coordinator \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**TERMINATION OF AGREEMENT**

Agreement Terminated on \_\_\_\_\_ Month, Day, Year \_\_\_\_\_ Signature of Park VIP Coordinator \_\_\_\_\_

Form No. 10-86  
Rev. (9-99)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
VOLUNTEERS-IN-PARKS PROGRAM

AREA \_\_\_\_\_

**Agreement for Sponsored Voluntary Services**

SPONSOR, ORGANIZATION, OR EVENT \_\_\_\_\_ NAME OF \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ (Street, city, state, zip code)

CONTACT PERSON (Liaison for day-to-day operations) \_\_\_\_\_

WORK TELEPHONE (Including area code) \_\_\_\_\_ HOME TELEPHONE (Including area code) \_\_\_\_\_

Brief description of work to be performed, including minimum time commitment required. (Attach complete job description to this form)

We agree to obtain parental or guardian consent for each individual under 18 years of age and to comply with applicable child labor laws. We understand that the individuals volunteering under this agreement will not receive any compensation for the above work and that they will NOT be considered to be Federal employees for any purpose other than tort claims and injury compensation, and we understand that volunteer service is not creditable for leave accrual or any other employee benefits. We also understand that either the National Park Service, or we, may cancel this agreement at any time by notifying the other party. We agree to provide the National Park Service with a listing of active participants, and the number of hours each contributed, when and as requested.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

The National Park Service agrees, while this arrangement is in effect, to provide such materials, equipment and facilities that are available and needed to perform the work described above, and to consider you as a Federal employee only for the purpose of tort claims and compensation for work related injuries.

Signature of Park VIP Coordinator \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**TERMINATION OF AGREEMENT**

Agreement Terminated on \_\_\_\_\_ Month, Day, Year \_\_\_\_\_ Signature of Park VIP Coordinator \_\_\_\_\_

# The SMMNRA Interagency Trail Management Plan

## Recreational Routes

Status

Use Designation

ADA Opportunities

Backbone Trail & Regional Systems

## Recreational Facilities

Backbone Trail Backcountry Camps

Trailheads

Trail Signage

## Recreational Management Policies

Trail Rules

Trail Maintenance

Park Closures - Weather

Special Events

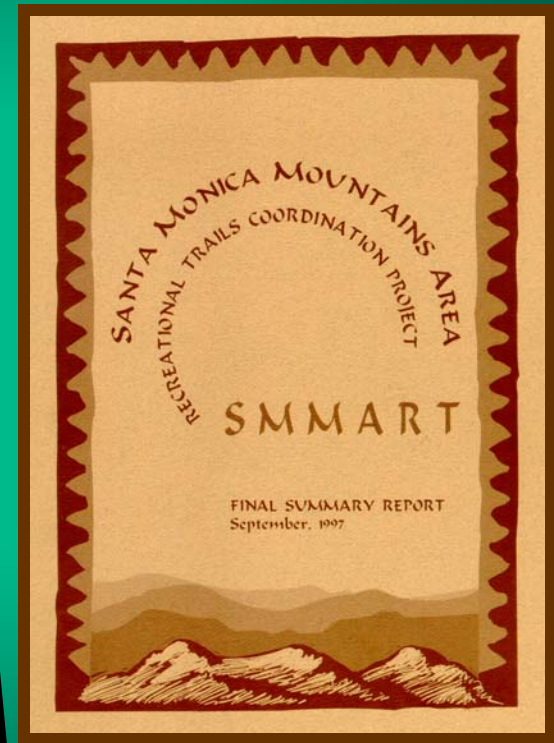
Cheeseboro Canyon Trail

# Santa Monica Mountains Area Recreational Trails "SMART" Project

First major trail planning project for Santa Monica Mountains (1995 - 1997)

Facilitated by NPS Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program

The SMART report conveys the public's recommendations for the recreational network.



Multiple Use Trail Guidelines Team  
Missing Links Action Team  
Trail Camps Team

Signage Team  
Trail System Team  
Trails Inventory Team

## Priority Coordination Issues Not Addressed by a SMART Action Team

### Issue

Encourage [trail management] agencies to commit to cooperate.

### Victory Identified

Santa Monica Mountains perceived as one park with unified rules and regulations

### Issue

Renewing a commitment to volunteers

### Victory Identified

Effective volunteer programs in place throughout the mountains

### Issue

Establish a Multi-agency Trail Crew and Share Equipment

### Victory Identified

Well maintained, safe, usable trails

### Issue

Compiling Information on Historic Trail Use

### Victory Identified

Historic trails are ultimately dedicated for public use



The Trail Management Plan (TMP) is the agency follow-up to SMMART.

### The TMP Planning Team

Agency Representatives from  
National Park Service (6)  
State Department of Parks and Recreation (3)  
Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (2)

Resource Management

Law Enforcement

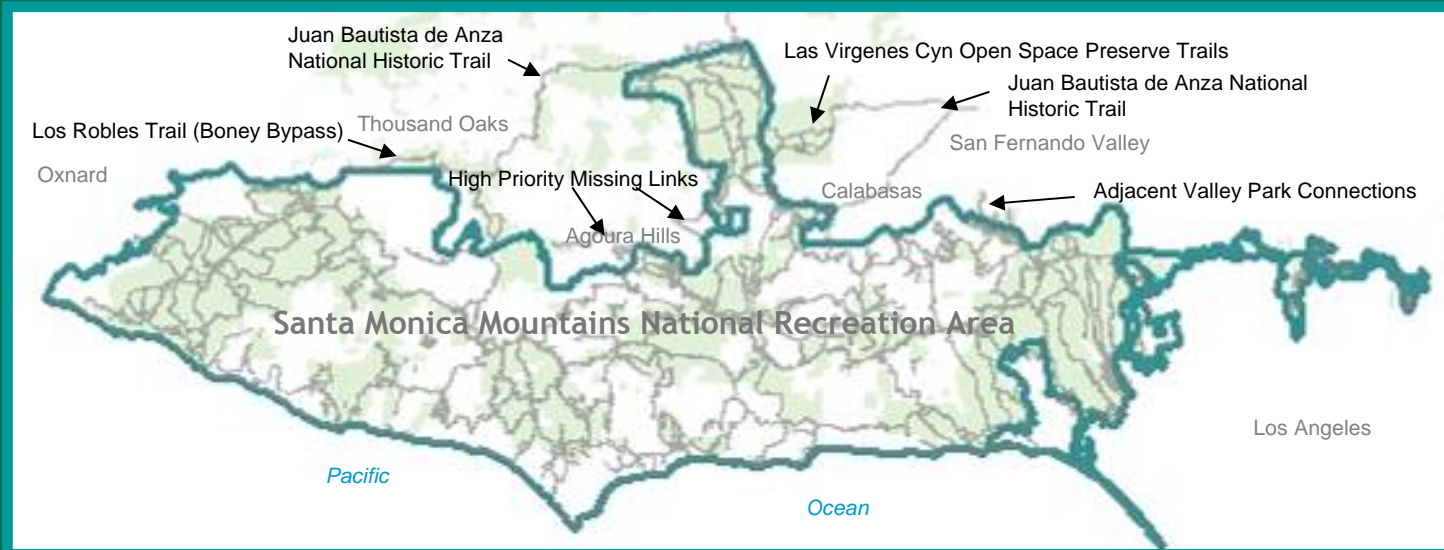
Interpretation

Maintenance

An interagency regional trail management plan that will improve management of the trail system to protect natural and cultural resources and promote a "seamless" recreational experience for park visitors.

Enabled by the SMMNRA Cooperative Management Agreement

## TMP EIS/EIR Draft Conceptual Alternatives – Study Area



*Includes All Recreational Routes  
Inside SMMNRA*

*Includes Regional Trails, Critical  
Missing Links, And Neighborhood  
Connections Outside SMMNRA*

### Recreational Routes Addressed in TMP

**797 miles**

Current Public Network

**484**

Unofficial Trails & Roads

**171**

Utility Easements

**48**

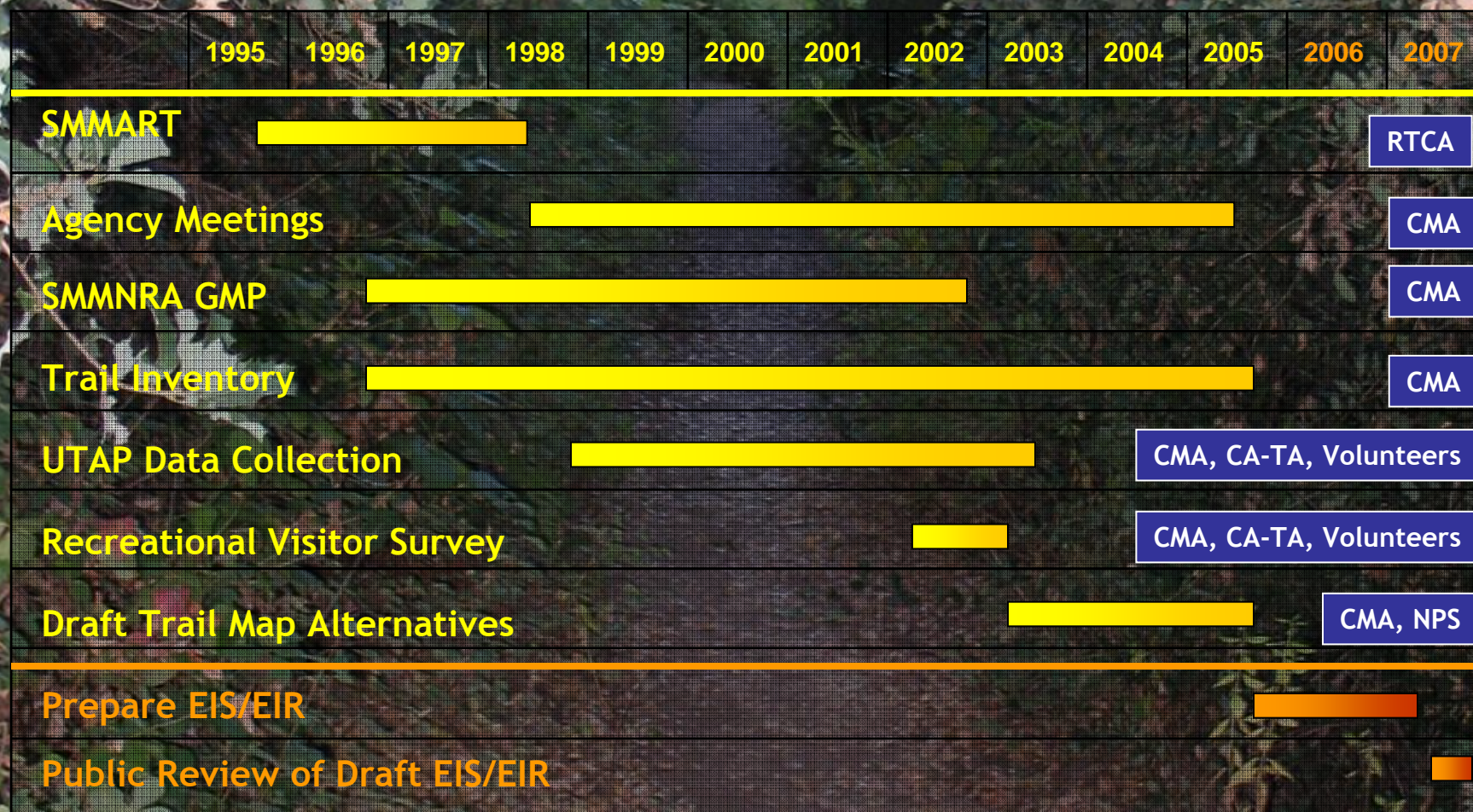
Proposed New Trails

**94**

**SMMART: Trail Inventory Team**



## Trail Management Plan Development Timeline



Mishe Mokwa Trail



# Trail Management - Maintenance

## Agency Staff

### National Park Service

5 FTE Roads & Trails Staff

R&T Supervisor

Trail Work Leader

Equipment Operator

Trail Worker

Sign Carpenter

6 Seasonals funded by Cyclic  
Funds ~ \$45k/Yr

Contract: Public Land Corps  
Grants: LACC, CCC ~\$40k/Yr

Enabled by the SMMNRA Cooperative  
Management Agreement and Various  
Cooperative Agreements

### State Parks

1 FTE Park Maintenance Supervisor

2 Seasonals

Contract: Public Land Corps Grants:  
LACC, CCC

### SMMC/MRCA

2 FTE Maintenance Staff

Dependent on Grants

Use L.A. County Camp Crew

Agreement Number – H8549030032  
Page 1 of 10

**Cooperative Agreement  
between  
The United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service, Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area  
and  
Los Angeles Conservation Corps**

This Agreement is entered into by and between the Los Angeles Conservation Corps (LACC), and the United States of America, U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service (NPS), by and through the Superintendent, Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area.

**ARTICLE I – BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES**

The LACC has been established as a federally funded program governed and managed by the Institute for the purpose of employment and development of young people and the conservation and enhancement of the park's natural and cultural resources.



## Trail Maintenance at SMMNRA - Volunteer Assistance

### Santa Monica Mountains Trails Council

- Over 50 Trail Maintenance Events/Year
- Typical Day: 5-6 Hours
- Average Turn-out: 10 People
- Annual Volunteer Hours: 4,076 in 2007

### Sierra Club Trail Crew

- Over 25 Trail Maintenance Events/Year
- Average Turn-out: 8-14 People
- Annual Volunteer Hours: 1,500

- Trail crew leaders work with considerable autonomy. Training involves:
  - 12-16 hrs' in-class leadership/supervision training from Frank Padilla, trail expert
  - CPR and First Aid training
  - 100 hrs' accumulated in-the-field experience prior to crew leader recommendation
  - Special ongoing trail maintenance training programs and conferences
- Trail work locations are approved by agencies.
- Organizations provide their own equipment.
- Agencies contribute supplies & equipment when funding allows.

Enabled by the SMMNRA Individual Voluntary Agreements

## National Trails Day



- NPS is Lead Agency & Event Coordinator
- 100+ Volunteers Attend
- 436 Volunteer Hours at 2007 Event
- Supervised (Agency and Volunteers)

# Trail Management - SMMNRA Visitor Protection

## Agency Staff

### National Park Service

#### 12 FTE Federal Officers

8 Field Rangers

2 District Rangers

1 Assistant Division Chief  
(vacant)

1 Division Chief

Seasonals: Depends on  
Funding Opportunities

### SMMC/MRCA

#### 23 Sworn Peace Officers

Includes Executive Staff

### State Parks

#### 23 FTE Sworn Peace Officers

19 Patrol Rangers

4 Supervising Rangers

Does not include Executive  
Staff



## Visitor Protection - SMMNRA Law Enforcement Jurisdiction

SMMNRA NPS Parkland is under “Proprietary Jurisdiction.”

State law enforcement power was retained when land came under Federal jurisdiction. State agencies can establish policy that allows or disallows law enforcement on the Federal lands.

### NPS/SMMNRA Rangers (Federal Officers)

- Can issue citations on Federal lands
- Cannot issue citations on State/Local land except under two circumstances\*
  - Enforcement of Federal Laws (Endangered Species Act, etc.)
  - “In Pursuit” that began on Federal land

### State Park & MRCA Rangers, Local Police (California Peace Officers)

- Can issue citations on State/Local land
- Cannot issue citations on Federal lands\*

\* NPS/SMMNRA Rangers cannot issue citations on State parklands except for the two circumstances. State/MRCA Rangers cannot issue citations on Federal lands.

The SMMNRA Cooperative Management Agreement enables joint law enforcement under other subsidiary agreements. No MOU or other authorization tool has been adopted for SMMNRA. Redwood State & National Parks has formalized interagency law enforcement.



## Visitor Protection at SMMNRA - Volunteer Assistance



Agency Support is Key to  
Successful Volunteer  
Programs

## Visitor Protection at SMMNRA - Volunteer Assistance

### Mounted Volunteer Patrol

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Managed by NPS LE Ranger, "Horse Coordinator"

45 Volunteers

Usually 4-6 on Patrol Each Weekend

Patrol NPS, State Parks, and MRCA Parklands

### Mountain Bike Unit

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Managed by NPS LE Ranger

60-100+ Volunteers

Usually 3 Pairs on Patrol Each Weekend, 4 Hrs.

Patrol NPS, State Parks, and MRCA Parklands

Monthly 8-Hr Volunteer Requirement

### Training

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- Certification of Riding Skills and Horse Stability
- Volunteers-in-Parks Orientation (Classroom)
- Field Orientation Ride with Seasoned MPU

30+ Hours, Covering NPS Mission and Philosophy, Plant Identification, CPR & First Aid, Radio Communication, In-field Incident Simulations

### Assistance Provided

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Do not issue citations

Act as "first responders" to assist park rangers

Assist with visitor problems and accidents

Provide visitors with trail directions, etc.

Enabled by the SMMNRA Individual Voluntary Agreements



## Interagency Trail Management Challenges



## Challenge: Trail Users

Meeting the demand for a variety of recreational opportunities. . .

Horses and bikes  
aren't safe together  
on trails!



### Limit Multiple Use

- Bike Speed and Fear for Safety
- Reduced Sense of Solitude
- Resource Damage

We wish more  
“single track” trails  
were open to us!



### Expand Multiple Use

- More Variety and Disperses Users
- Strong Trail Volunteerism
- Fair to All Users



No Mandate for Use Designation Can Be Gleaned from Public Comments



# Challenge: Trail Use Designation

## Multiple Use Designation



### TMP Conclusion

The recreational experience on a multiple use trail is different than on a hiker or hiker/equestrian trail.

*Speed*



*Startle Factor*

"Frame of mind" is shifted from relaxation in the natural environment to vigilance of the human element.

### Decision-making Filters

- Can multi-use occur in manner that does not impact park resources?
- Can multi-use occur without impacting others' experience?
- Can multi-use occur safely?

### Trail Management Plan – Strategies

- Maintain current use designations.
- Open additional areas to mountain biking and monitor for social carrying capacity. Adjust.
- Design and implement alternate use designations.

- Balancing Resource Protection with Access
- Feasibility of Implementing Trail Management Plan

Promulgate rule for mountain biking on selected trails.  
(36 CFR 4.30)

# Challenge: Interagency Coordination

Bringing together agency missions, rules, regulations, procurement

## Joint Regulatory/Directional Signs

### Trail Rules

Obey posted designations for bicycling, dog walking, and horseback riding.

- All resources and park property are protected. Collecting, disturbing, or defacing resources prohibited.
- No motor vehicles, except authorized vehicles.
- Hunting, traps, firearms, and other weapons prohibited.
- No smoking or fires.
- Camping by permit only.
- Organized events and filming by permit only.
- NO DOGS unless signed as permitted. Where permitted, dogs must be on leash not to exceed six feet and under control.
- Bicycles and horses, where permitted, must be under control at all times. Maximum speed is 15 mph or safest speed for trail conditions.
- No galloping horses. No grazing or free-trailing horses. Do not leave horses unattended or tied to trees or other natural resources.
- Share the trails safely. Bicyclists yield to equestrians and hikers. Hikers yield to equestrians. Equestrians pass other users at a walk.

Santa Monica Mountains  
National Recreation  
Area

For general park information, call (805)370-2301.  
In case of emergency, call 911 or Angeles Dispatch at (651)723-3620.  
Online park information: [www.nps.gov/samo](http://www.nps.gov/samo)

Dog Universal Symbol



Bike Universal Symbol



Horse Universal Symbol



### Trail Rules

- ▶ All resources are protected. No collecting, including rocks, plants and animals!
- ▶ Motor vehicles prohibited, Authorized vehicles only.
- ▶ Stay on designated "agency signed" trails.
- ▶ Fires and camping are prohibited.
- ▶ Dogs must be on a leash, not to exceed six feet, and under control.
- ▶ Carry out all refuse.
- ▶ No hunting or trapping. No weapons, firearms, BB guns, pellet guns, bow and arrows, or slingshots.
- ▶ Bicycles/horses must be controlled at all times. Do not endanger visitors, wildlife or park property.
- ▶ Organized events are only allowed by permit.

MRCA, RSRPD and COSCA lands are only open sunrise to sunset.

- ▶ Trails are subject to closure during inclement weather and emergency conditions.


Enjoy Visiting YOUR Public Lands!

310-450-7049 M.R.C.A. 805-288-6400 R.S.R.P.D. 805-486-6471 C.O.S.C.A. 805-370-2301 N.P.S.

Title 36 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations, Title 10 S.M.M.C., Public Resources Codes 3782.21, 32211.4 and Section 194 of the Penal Code, State of California. Other State/Federal Ordinances Apply. Contact a Park Ranger for Details.

Violation of these rules may be punishable by fine and/or jail.

In case of emergency, call 911



## Backbone Trail

Zuma Canyon Trail

Zuma Ridge Motorway	2.5 mi.
Encinal Canyon Road	5.1 mi.



## Dead Horse Trail

Backbone Trail System

Musch Trail	1.3 mi.
Eagle Springs Fire Road	3.5 mi.



### Backbone Trail

Mishe Mokwa Trailhead 2.1 mi. →

← Sandstone Peak 1.1 mi.

Q: How many meetings did it take to put these signs together?

A: Less than 10, but more than 1.



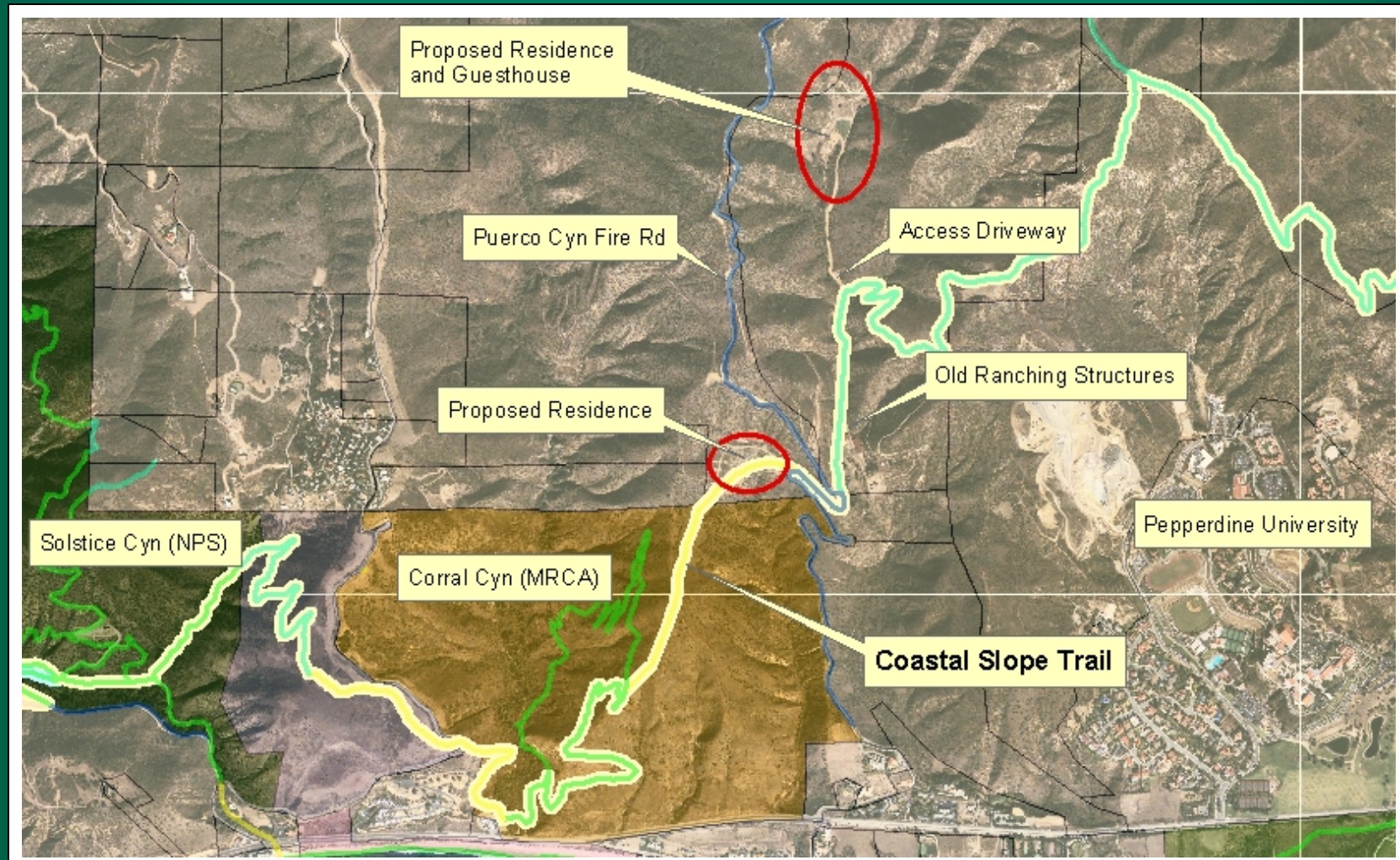
## Changes in private owner sentiment toward public access





## Challenge: Securing Trail Connections

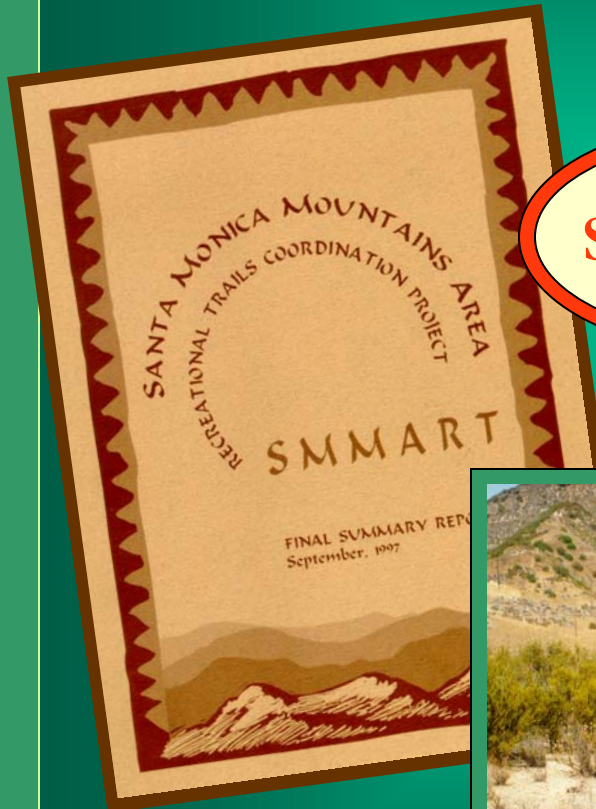
The private/public cooperation challenge



An official trail plan would substantiate the connection during the permitting process.



# Challenge: Budgetary Constraints Getting the Interagency Trail Management Plan Done



**\$ TMP EIS/EIR \$**



## Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area Recreational Trail Use Survey July 2002

In July, 2002, a comprehensive visitor survey was undertaken by the Sustainable Cities Program at the University of Southern California. The USC team, park staff, and volunteers from NPS, State Parks, and SMMC surveyed park visitors at 33 locations over two weekends and two days during the intervening week. Some 12,388 visitors were counted, and over 900 surveys were represented in the final data analysis.

The survey gathered information on user demographics, recreational use patterns, attitudes toward protecting the national recreation area, attitudes toward other users, travel distance, and barriers to park access.

Trail enthusiasts at Topanga State Park filling out survey

### Selected Results

#### Typical SMMNRA Trail User

40 Years Old, White, College-educated, U.S.-born, and a Repeat Visitor

#### Trail Use Patterns

Morning	64%
Afternoon	35%
Evening	21%
Weekends	73%
Weekdays	26%
Summer	72%
Fall	56%
Winter	52%
Spring	63%
Median Hours Spent on Trail	2
Median Visits per Month	4

Visitors drove an average of 27-34 minutes to reach trails.

#### Why Protect SMMNRA?

- 53%: To provide habitat for plants & animals
- 22%: To provide recreational opportunities
- 22%: Both habitat and recreation

#### Recreational Activity

Activity	%
Hiking	49.5
Mountain Biking	18.7
Jogging	8.2
Sightseeing	6.1
Dog walking	4.7
Horseback riding	3.4
Picnicking	2.8

#### User Attitudes toward Others

Approximately 30% of users had "no problem" with other users, and for the most part, users viewed other users favorably or were neutral. 70% of users, however, cited the following problems.

- 28.1%: uncooperative behavior
- 24.9%: leaving animal wastes
- 22.2%: littering
- 20.5%: collisions or injury
- 20.5%: startling people
- 19.6%: damaging plants
- 17.7%: frightening wildlife
- 14.9%: making too much noise
- 6.3%: scaring horses



*The End. Now get out there and enjoy our one and only  
Backbone Trail!*